GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1546
ANSWERED ON:04.03.2016
Poverty in India
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Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of people in the country are living Below Poverty Line (BPL), if so, the details thereof State/ UT-wise along with the criteria fixed to determine the BPL;
(b) whether the Government has identified the reasons for the rise in poverty level in various States, particularly in Jharkhand, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh and if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether Suresh Tendulkar Committee appointed to decide the criteria of poverty line has recommended to stop the separate calorie parameters for rural and urban areas, if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon;
(d) whether the Government has any proposal to conduct a survey in collaboration with some community based organizations/NGOs to identify the poorest among poor people living in different States of the country, if so, the details thereof along with the time by which the said survey is likely to be completed;
(e) whether the Government has taken any steps to review the performance of schemes/programmes being implemented for eradicating poverty in the country and if so, the details and findings thereof; and
(f) the concrete measures taken/being taken by the Government to improve the quality of life of the poor people and reduce poverty in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR MINISTRY OF PLANNING
AND MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENCE
RAO INDERJIT SINGH

(a) The erstwhile Planning Commission estimated the number of people living below the poverty line from the Large Sample Surveys on Household Consumer Expenditure carried out by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. These surveys are normally conducted on quinquennial basis. The latest data of Large Sample Survey on Household Consumer Expenditure has been collected by NSSO in its 68th round conducted in 2011-12. Based on this data, the erstwhile Planning Commission estimated poverty lines and poverty ratio in 2011-12 following the extant Tendulkar Committee methodology and released through a Press Note issued on 22nd July 2013. According to this Press Note, the number of persons living below poverty line in India has been estimated as 27 crore in 2011-12. The poverty line has been defined on the basis of Monthly Per Capita Consumption Expenditure (MPCE) as the criterion. For the year 2011-12, the poverty line at all India level has been estimated as MPCE of Rs. 816 for rural areas and Rs. 1000 for urban areas. These poverty lines vary from state to state because of price differentials. The State/UT wise poverty line and number of persons living below poverty line in 2011-12 are given at Annexure I.
(b) According to the Press Note issued on 22nd July 2013, the poverty ratio in the country including in states like Jharkhand, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh has come down from 2004-05 to 2011-12. The State/UT-wise details of poverty ratio in 2004-05 and 2011-12 are given at Annexure II.
(c) The methodology for estimation of poverty followed by the erstwhile Planning Commission has been based on the recommendations made by the experts in the field from time to time. An Expert Group was constituted under the chairmanship of Prof. Suresh D. Tendulkar in 2005 to review the methodology for estimation of poverty. The Tendulkar Committee, which submitted its Report in 2009, has stated the following with regard to anchoring of poverty line with calorie norms:
"The expert group has also taken a conscious decision to move away from anchoring the poverty lines to a calorie intake norm in view of the fact that calorie consumption calculated by converting the consumed quantities in the last 30 days as collected by NSS has not been found to be well correlated with the nutritional outcomes observed from other specialized surveys either over time or across space (i.e. between states or rural and urban areas)."
The methodology recommended by the Tendulkar Committee was accepted by the erstwhile Planning Commission.
(d) At present, there is no such proposal to conduct a survey in collaboration with some community based organizations/NGOs to identify the poorest among poor people living in different States of the country.
(e) Various schemes/programmes being implemented by the Government help directly or indirectly in improving the standard of living of poor people thereby contributing in reduction of poverty in the country. These schemes/programmes are reviewed from time to time and the findings of such reviews are considered while modifying the schemes/programmes. The Programme Evaluation Organisation (now Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO) since September 2015) has been carrying out evaluation of the Central Sector Schemes and Centrally Sponsored Schemes. The main objective of these evaluation studies is to assess the impact and effectiveness of the schemes in addition to finding out any deficiencies or problems in the implementation/designs of the schemes in a view to give suitable recommendations for their timely resolution. The details and findings of these evaluation reports could be accessed on the erstwhile Planning Commission's website i.e., http://planningcommission.gov.in/reports/peoreport/index.php?Reptspeobody.htm and the NITI Aayog's website i.e. http://www.niti.gov.in/content/reports.php.
(f) The Government has initiated various measures to improve the quality of life of the people and to reduce poverty in the country through direct intervention by implementing specific poverty reduction and mitigation programmes. These include Prime Minister's

Jan-DhanYojana (PMJDY), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM), National Urban Livelihoods Mission (NULM), Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation Mission (AMRUT), Housing for All, National Health Mission (NHM), Sarva Sikhsha Abhiyaan (SSA), Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS), Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDMS), Swachh Bharat Mission, National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS)/ National Food Security Act (NFSA), road connectivity through the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti BimaYojana, the Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, Atal Pension Yojana etc. There are many other initiatives which are directly taken by the State Governments keeping in view the State and district-specific requirements. The emphasis of the Government is on "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas" which symbolizes inclusive development.